

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please add the following new paragraph on Page 1, above line 1:

**--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

Applicant claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of Austrian Application No. GM 662/2002 filed October 4, 2002. Applicant also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/AT2003/000269 filed September 10, 2003. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.--

Page 1, line 10, to page 2, line 1, please replace this paragraph by the following paragraph:

--From AT 1240 U1, and from the corresponding US ~~5,209,886 A~~ 5,809,886 A, a hand stamp is known, in which a plug-in connection is provided between a stamp plate and a stamp plate carrier with the help of a plug-in projection engaging in a recess. However, this plug-in connection has the drawback that the stamp plate is relatively loosely mounted on the stamp plate carrier; therefore, there is the risk that the stamp plate will unintentionally become detached from the carrier, or, at least, will

inadvertently be rotated relative to the carrier so that the stamp imprint will not be produced in the desired orientation.--